

# Khrushchev Story: True or Red Plot?

## Psychological Warfare Ploy by Russ Seen

BY VICTOR ZORZA

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LONDON—The mysterious appearance in the West of Nikita S. Khrushchev's "reminiscences" looks like a move in a deep-laid psychological warfare plot hatched in the Kremlin.

The linking of the name of Victor Louis with the transmission of the Khrushchev material to Time Inc.

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means that the Soviet government, whose servant Louis is, has had a hand in the affair.

There is a pattern in all this activity which suggests that the KGB's "Department D" (for disinformation) is building up step by step a network of contacts and arrangements which would enable it to command the use of the West's massive publicity media for some special purpose of its own.

Any similarity between all this and an international spy thriller is not purely coincidental. Louis has often figured as the hero of such tales in situations which were not at all fictional.

### Unorthodox Missions

Louis, a Soviet citizen residing in Moscow, also acts as a correspondent for Western newspapers. This enables him to undertake frequent foreign travels during which he has performed important if unorthodox duties for the Soviet Foreign Ministry in countries where Russia has no formal representation—as, for instance, in Spain and Taiwan.

Earlier this month, he was in Kuwait, and has since then been in Fiji.

Louis and several men from Time Inc. were reported in the Danish press to have stayed at the Hotel d'Angleterre in Copenhagen at the end of August, when the Khrushchev deal was apparently negotiated. His nonjournalistic functions have often been mentioned in the world press.

The New York Times once said, in a biographical note, that Louis was "a Soviet citizen believed to have close connection with the Soviet secret police." He had carried out in the past "special tasks" in the field of foreign propaganda—"apparently at the behest of the Soviet KGB, or secret police, or the Soviet foreign office, or both."

As far back as August, 1967, the New York Times reported that "Western intelligence services have long suspected Mr. Louis as an agent of the KGB."

At the same time, Newsweek magazine described him as an agent of a KGB department "used by the Soviet government to pipe expedient information toward the West."

In the Italian Corriere della Sera, the paper's former Moscow correspondent, who had known Louis for a number of years, described his "privileged position" in the Soviet capital in an article titled "Half Journalist, Half KGB Spy."

### Stalin's Daughter

Perhaps the most widely known psychological warfare operation in which Louis has been previously engaged concerned the memoirs of Stalin's daughter, Svetlana Alliluyeva, now Mrs. William Wesley Peters. The Kremlin

P-Zorza, Victor  
P-Timber, Harry  
P-Khrushchev, Nikita  
P-Louis, Victor  
P-Stalina, Svetlana  
P-Tarvis, La  
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### Earlier Role

The credibility of Louis as a purveyor of this kind of material had been established by his role in 1965-66 in making available to the West a filmed interview of Khrushchev's reminiscences.

The truth of that operation is that the American television producer, Mrs. Lucy Jarvis, was approached by Louis during a visit to Moscow, and he offered to procure for her a filmed interview with Khrushchev. Louis was then invited to New York to discuss the arrangements with the National Broadcasting Co. He asked for a fee of \$25,000 and for the cameras and tape recorders which were to be used in making the film.

### Report Denied

(Mrs. Jarvis denied in 1967 that she dealt directly with Louis.)

It so happened that Pierre Salinger, the White House press secretary during the John F. Kennedy and early Lyndon B. Johnson years, had for some time been trying to obtain Khrushchev's views on his dealings with President Kennedy, to form part of the Kennedy Memorial Library. When NBC came to consider the questions which should be put to Khrushchev, it was decided that these should be drawn up by Salinger.

Salinger insisted on a pre-arranged interview with Khrushchev.

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